

## Abstract of the Disclosure

By storing an authenticator created from a data  
file in a secure area usually unaccessible, the  
5 alteration of the data file can be detected.  
Furthermore, by designating the data file as a main-  
file and creating authenticators from various kinds  
of sub-files related to the main-file, the size of the  
secure area where the authenticators are stored, can  
10 be reduced.

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